



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

# **Academy general annual grant allocation guide: 2020 to 2021 academic year**

**A guide for special and alternative  
provision academies and special free  
schools open between 1 April 2020 and  
31 August 2020**

**March 2020**

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## Introduction

This operational guide helps you understand how the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has calculated your 2020 to 2021 academic year funding. We have developed the guide in consultation with a sample of academies to make sure it better meets your needs.

The guide supports your general annual grant (GAG) statement. It sets out the funding you will receive, how we have calculated it, the factors that have been applied and the source of the data we use. You will notice small changes to some of the tables, but we've kept changes to a minimum to allow headline year-on-year comparisons.

## How to use the guide

We have produced the guide in a format that allows you to access the specific parts that interest you or areas where you require more detailed information.

The '[What's new?](#)' section shows at a glance the changes to funding for special and alternative provision academies in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, and where the change is reflected in your GAG statement. The subsequent chapters take you through an example funding statement table by table, explaining each line in turn.

We recognise that GAG funding makes up only part of the overall funding for your academy. We've added a section to the end of the guide listing the main [non-GAG revenue and capital funding lines](#). This section includes links to information about how and when these are paid.

## Who is the guide for?

This guide is for special and alternative provision (AP) academies and special free schools open between 1 April 2020 and 31 August 2020. Separate guidance is available for [mainstream academies and free schools](#).

When we refer to academies in this document we are referring to all types, including special free schools, unless otherwise stated.

## What's new in the 2020 to 2021 academic year?

The changes to funding in 2020 to 2021 are summarised below and you can find more information on the technical aspects of these in subsequent chapters.

Further information is available in the [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#). We have also published the [pre-16 schools funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#).

### Changes to the funding formula and your GAG statement

What's new?	What does this mean?	How will this be reflected in my GAG statement?
Additional 16 to 19 funding line	There is an additional funding line for high value courses premium funding	If your academy has a sixth form, you will see this line in the summary table: 16 to 19 allocation. It will show as zero unless your academy is eligible for this funding.


## The GAG statement explained

The following sections of this guide walk you through the GAG statement for the 2020 to 2021 academic year. Please note that the **figures in the sample tables A and B are intended as an illustration only**. They are drawn from a number of different cases to show you as many of the calculation workings as possible and together they do not represent a single real-life academy.

### Summary statement

The first page of your GAG statement is a summary statement of the tables that make up your GAG. The information used to populate the summary table comes from each of the tables in your pack. Section 3 (16 to 19 allocation) will only be populated if your academy has a sixth form.

### Academic year 2020 to 2021 summary table

 Education & Skills Funding Agency	<b>Academy General Annual Grant allocation statement: 2020 to 2021 academic year Special and alternative provision academies</b>	
Name	Provider name	
LA name	LA name	
LAESTAB	LAEstabNumber	
UPIN	UPIN	
UKPRN	UKPRN	
URN	URN	
Opening date	Date	
<b>1. Breakdown of academic year 2020 to 2021 school allocation</b>		
Post-opening grant (start-up grant)	£0.00	<a href="#">See Table B</a>
<b>Total school allocation</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>2. Breakdown of academic year 2020 to 2021 high needs allocation</b>		
Pre-16 high needs place funding	£0.00	<a href="#">See Table A</a>
Post-16 high needs place funding	£0.00	<a href="#">See Table A</a>
Hospital education funding	£0.00	<a href="#">See Table A</a>

<b>Total high needs allocation</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	(Excludes any top-up funding from local authority)
<b>3. Breakdown of 16 to 19 allocation</b>		
Programme funding - formula	£0.00	See 16 to 19 allocation statement
Formula protection funding	£0.00	
Student financial support funding	£0.00	
Industry placements	£0.00	
Advanced maths premium funding	£0.00	
High value course premium funding	£0.00	
<b>Total 16 to 19 allocation including student financial support funding</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Total allocation (1+2+3)</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
Information on funding lines that are in addition to GAG will be provided separately (pupil premium, for example)		

## Post 16 funding

On 31 August 2019, the Chancellor announced an [additional £400m](#) for 16 to 19 education for academic year 2020 to 2021. We have published information on [what this means for 16 to 19 revenue funding allocations in 2020 to 2021](#) and will continue to update our [16 to 19 funding allocations](#) page and timeline with further information as it becomes available.

The summary table will present an extract from your 16 to 19 revenue funding allocation statement (which we upload to Document Exchange separately) as shown in section 3 of the sample table above.

Further information about [16 to 19 funding allocations](#) including [information](#) to help you understand your allocation is also available.

## Table A - high needs place funding

Local authorities have a role in funding high needs pupils in academies, as a commissioner of special education provision for these pupils. This means that academies receive funding for pupils with high needs from both ESFA (place funding) and local authorities (top-up funding). In the case of alternative provision (AP) the top-up funding can also come directly from other schools, where they commission places directly. More information about the role of the local authority in agreeing and commissioning high needs places is available in [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#).

High needs funding for both pre-16 and 16 to 19 special educational needs (SEN) is funded on the number of agreed places.

AP (which by definition is pre-16 only) is also funded on a per place basis. 16 to 19 students at AP academies are funded per pupil at the national 16 to 19 funding formula rate. There may also be some 16 to 19 SEN places at AP academies which are funded on a per place basis.

In the 2020 to 2021 academic year we will roll forward your 2019 to 2020 academic year place numbers and use these to calculate your allocation. The exception to this is where your local authority has requested a change in place numbers which was agreed with you (or accepted by ESFA where there was disagreement). In this instance we would use this changed figure in your allocation. More information on this process is available in the [high needs place change notification: technical note](#). Free schools are out of scope of this process. Place numbers for special and AP free schools will be determined by ESFA based on a range of data including the school's financial plan, commissioning arrangements and occupancy levels.

Top-up funding above these levels, based on the assessed needs of the pupil and the cost of meeting these in the setting, should be agreed between the commissioning local authority and the special or AP academy. Top-up funding is paid for the period that the pupil is actually occupying the place in the academy. It is paid directly to the academy on a monthly basis unless a different payment frequency is agreed with the local authority. Top-up funding for pupils in AP can be paid directly by other academies and schools if they commission the places for those pupils. As top-up funding is not paid by ESFA, it is not shown on your GAG funding statement. Read the [high needs funding 2019 to 2020: operational guide](#) for more information on top up funding, including the minimum funding guarantee for special schools at annex A.

Hospital education places that exist in some academies will be funded at the same rate as in 2019 to 2020, unless the local authority has agreed a higher rate. Pupils occupying these places do not attract top-up funding.

More information on [high needs funding](#) is available online.

## Sample Table A: high needs place funding

[Back to summary statement](#)

Pre-16 breakdown						
Type	Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total pre-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2021 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2020)	Calculation	Explanation
1. Special	55	£10,000.00	£550,000.00	£550,000.00		<p><b>Place numbers:</b> rolled forward pre-16 2019 to 2020 places (or place numbers agreed by ESFA)</p> <p><b>Unit value:</b> £10,000</p> <p><b>Total pre-16 allocation =</b> place numbers x unit value</p> <p><b>Allocation to August 2021:</b> Total allocation x days open / 365</p>
2. Alternative provision	0	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00		
3. <b>Total pre-16 high needs place funding 365 days</b>				<b>£550,000.00</b>	<b>1+ 2</b>	Total post-16 allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021



**Post-16 breakdown**

Place numbers	Annual per place unit value	Total post-16 allocation	Allocation to August 2021 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2020)	Explanation
10	£10,000.00	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	<p><b>Place numbers:</b> rolled forward post-16 2019 to 2020 places (or place numbers agreed by the ESFA)</p> <p><b>Unit value:</b> £10,000</p> <p><b>Total post-16 allocation</b> = place numbers x unit value</p> <p><b>Allocation to August 2020:</b> Total allocation x months open / 12</p>
<b>Total post-16 high needs funding 12 months</b>			<b>£100,000.00</b>	Total post-16 allocation, proportioned from the time you open until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021.

**Hospital education breakdown**

Place numbers	Full year funding	Allocation to August 2021 (as total allocation for academies open on 1 September 2020)	Explanation
0	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>	<p><b>Full year funding:</b> this is calculated by the local authority that previously maintained the provision, based on the agreed number of places you'll provide. The local authority informs the ESFA of the relevant amount.</p> <p><b>Allocation to August 2021:</b> Total allocation x months open / 12</p>
<b>Hospital education adjusted for 365 days</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	Total hospital education allocation, proportioned from the time you open as an academy until the end of the academic year, 31 August 2021.

## Table B - post-opening grant (start-up grant)

Table B will only be populated in your 2020 to 2021 funding statement if you are due to receive start-up grant or post-opening grant funding.

### Start-up grant (SUG)

Start-up grant is paid to full sponsored academies only.

Special and AP academies may receive start-up grant part A. This is a flat rate allocation paid in the first year of opening only: 50% in month one, 25% in month two and 25% in month three.

Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B, which is a formulaic allocation for leadership capacity. This is because these academies receive a GAG allocation per place rather than per pupil, which already takes account of staff diseconomies of scale and recognises that pupil numbers in such provision can fluctuate widely throughout the year.

More information is available in [sponsored academies funding: advice for sponsors](#).

### Post-opening grant (POG)

Post-opening grant is paid to special and AP free schools to reflect the additional costs in establishing a new publicly-funded school. The POG provides funding in two elements as the school grows: per-pupil resources, paid on a per place basis, and a leadership diseconomies grant. These titles reflect the basis on which the funding is calculated, but the grant can be spent on any legitimate purpose of the school.

The first element (resources) is paid each year that the school builds up to capacity for each new pupil expected to be on roll.

The second element (leadership) is agreed on a case-by-case basis with the project lead. It is based on the needs of the new special or AP free school.

## Example Table B: academic year 2020 to 2021 post-opening grant (start-up grant)

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Line	Value	Calculation	Explanation	
1.	Start-up grant part A	£0.00		For academies that opened from April 2013 this is a one-off payment.
2.	Start-up grant part B – formulaic allocation	£0.00		Special and AP academies do not receive start-up grant B.
3.	Post-opening grant – per pupil resources	£0.00		For special and AP free schools this is the total of the resource element of the POG.
4.	Post-opening grant – leadership diseconomies	£0.00		For special and AP free schools this is the total of the diseconomies element of the POG.
<b>5.</b>	<b>Total post-opening grant (start-up grant) allocation</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>= 1 + 2 + 3+ 4</b>	The sum of SUG or POG elements as applicable.

## Funding outside the GAG

The previous sections explain the elements that make up your GAG funding. As an academy you will receive other revenue funding that is not part of your GAG. Some non-GAG funding has not been confirmed for 2020 to 2021, this section will be updated as the grants are confirmed. Currently confirmed are:

- [early years funding](#) - paid by the local authority to academies with a nursery class through the early years national funding formula (EYNFF)
- national non-domestic rates (NNDR) - paid on receipt of a claim using an [online form](#) in a single amount outside of the SBS
- [pupil premium](#) - paid in four instalments by ESFA. Allocations covering the next financial year have been published
- high needs top-up funding - paid by the local authority where required. In the case of AP, top-up funding can be paid directly by other schools and academies. Information about the [high needs funding arrangements for 2020 to 2021](#) is available
- [teachers' pay grant](#) - further allocations covering the next financial year will be published in due course
- [T level funding](#) - for providers selected to deliver T Levels in the 2020 to 2021 academic year
- [teachers' pension employer contribution grant](#) – further allocations covering the next financial year will be published in due course

Further information about [revenue funding payments for academies](#), the [growth fund](#) and [falling rolls fund](#) is available.

In addition, your academy may receive [capital funding](#) from ESFA.

## Risk protection arrangement (RPA)

If you are a member of [RPA](#) any adjustment made to your funding will be shown on your monthly pay schedule. It is not shown on your allocation statement as it does not affect your allocation, but does affect the amount you will receive on a monthly basis. If you opt into RPA you will not receive an adjusted allocation statement, but your monthly pay schedule will be reissued.



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